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Cuban Poet Said to Aid U.S. CIA

HAVANA (AP)—Award-winning Cuban poet Heberto Padilla has been accused of turning out antigovernment poems that helped the U.S. CIA and "satisfied his vanity."

A detailed attack came in a broadcast to the armed forces that followed a denunciation of Padilla in the official military journal Verde Olivo (Olive Green). The developments underscored a mounting government campaign against dissident Cuban intellectuals.

In another article in the same edition, "a handful of discontented" writers were denounced. That article said that in the past too many of the writers had been given prizes for sensationalizing and for "mechanically copying European and North American snobbism."

Padilla's poems were described as "frankly counterrevolutionary." In Cuban terms counterrevolution is punishable by death. The attacks said that although the poet had written about "millions of heads falling in a night, Padilla knows perfectly well that this has not happened to any writer in Cuba."

Padilla was named winner of this year's national poetry prize by the union of Cuban Artists and Writers. The award came after a behind-the-scenes struggle with the union directorate, which opposed his entry as ideologically unfit.

[At one point, Premier Castro was called on to determine the limits of poetic license. His decision, decreeing that that all written works supporting the revolution were valid, was interpreted at the time as supporting Padilla against the attacks of more stringent Communists.]

Verde Olivo said Padilla had lived most of his life in the United States. It said he worked for the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina before he was fired and took a newspaper job in Moscow where "his conduct during more than one year left much to be desired."

On his return to Cuba, it added, he lost a government job for "different irregularities." It did not elaborate.

In accusing Padilla of being a tool of the CIA, it said, he had arrived "late in the race to join the CIA. Others have already advanced more than he and already live from the benefits."